
**State Government Operations &
Accountability Committee**

HB 2495

Brief Description: Establishing a state government efficiency hotline.

Sponsors: Representatives Kilmer, Holmquist, Green, Miloscia, Buri, Nixon, Rodne, Hudgins, P. Sullivan, Springer, Haler, Morrell, Morris, Ericks, B. Sullivan, Simpson and Upthegrove.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Establishes a State Government Efficiency Hotline.
- Establishes the powers and duties of the State Auditor to manage and operate the hotline.

Hearing Date: 1/27/06

Staff: Kasa Tupua (786-7291).

Background:

The State Auditor (Auditor) is an elected official in the executive branch of the state government. Statute specifies numerous duties and responsibilities for the Auditor, including auditing public accounts in state agencies and local governments, and investigating improper governmental activity.

In the November 2005 general election, the passage of Initiative 900 expanded the Auditor's duties and responsibilities. The initiative authorizes the Auditor to conduct independent performance audits of all state and local governments on behalf of the citizens. Among the Auditor's responsibilities include the authorization to contract out any performance audits and submitting an official annual report of recommendations by July 1.

Summary of Bill:

State Government Efficiency Hotline

Within existing funds, the Auditor must establish a State Government Efficiency Hotline to allow members of the public and public employees to recommend improvements for efficiency, and to report waste, inefficiency or abuse by state agencies, state employees, or persons under contract with state agencies.

State Auditor: Powers and Duties

The Auditor is directed to:

- prepare and publicize information regarding the purpose of the hotline;
- designate staff to process recommendations'
- conduct an initial investigation of each report and determine which reports require further investigation;
- ensure the identity of a person making a report remains confidential until the investigation is complete;
- prepare a written determination of the results of the investigation; and
- submit an annual report to the legislature detailing complaints and report savings realized due to reconciled complaints.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 20, 2006.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.